

Abstract

A system for graphically connecting operators in a visual programming system. The user is presented with a plurality of graphical representations of operators. The user can invoke a plurality of software articles, such as input and output devices, applications, programs, and the like, and can create a custom application by connecting one or more outputs from one software article to inputs of one or more other software articles. A group of interconnected software articles can be encapsulated, and represented as a user-created software article. In response to a user interconnecting graphical representations of operators, the system automatically connects the corresponding operators to create a program.